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JPN-MyKad

JPN INCREASES SERVICES TO ACCOMODATE MYKAD DEMAND

PETALING JAYA, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- The National Registration Department (JPN) is making preparation to ensure that the smart identification card, MyKad, and the children's Smartcard would be issued in January next year, said its Director-General Datuk Azizan Ayob.

"It is in line with the announcement made by Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) while tabling Budget 2003 on Sept 20. JPN will increase its services to fulfil the demand in MyKad applications," he said at a media conference on MyKad and the children's Smartcard at the JPN headquarters here.

He said preparations were being made to issue the MyKad to 15 million more people, for a period of three years, from Jan 1 2003 until Dec 31 2005.

"I expect the smartcards to be used by all Malaysians by 2005, probably an estimated 17 or 18 million MyKad for adults and two or three million more Smartcards for children. So, a total of almost 20 million people would be using the smartcards," he said.

Currently, a total of 2.6 million people in Malaysia already possessed the MyKad, he said.

He said the announcement on the MyKad by the government would result in an increase in demand from 10,000 to 15,000 card applications daily, next year and would continue to increase to 20,000 applications by year 2005.

Azizan said JPN would open 29 more branches and 78 more MyKad counters nationwide, particularly in densely populated areas, to accommodate the increase in applications.

Besides that, JPN would also have a mobile unit service to cater to rural residents, a flexi counter at all branches to enable all counters to accept MyKad applications, upgrade computer systems facilities as well as increase counter operation hours.

He said the government had decided to provide the MyKad for free to all 12-year old applicants as well as first-time applicants to replace their plastic identification cards (KP) or the laminated identification cards (KPT).

"However, the payment exemption for these MyKad applications will only be given for a period of three years. After that, processing fees will be imposed as usual," he said. Asked on whether those who had lost their KP or KPT could register for the MyKad for free, Azizan replied that they would be fined and would have to pay the normal processing fees.

The MyKad fee is RM20 for those in the Klang Valley and RM10 for other areas throughout the country. Fines imposed would be RM30 for the first offence, and RM50 and RM100 for the second and third offence respectively.

On the children's Smartcard, he said the government would issue the card to children below 12 years old, beginning Jan 1 2003.

"This card is based on the MyKad but it does not have a photograph and fingerprint. It functions as a birth certificate. However, JPN will get the government's approval on policy matters before it is implemented," he said, adding that the card would contain birth certificate, health and education information of the child.

Azizan said the card would also ease the burden on parents as it would be used electronically while dealing with schools, hospitals, banks and other institutions.

-- BERNAMA

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